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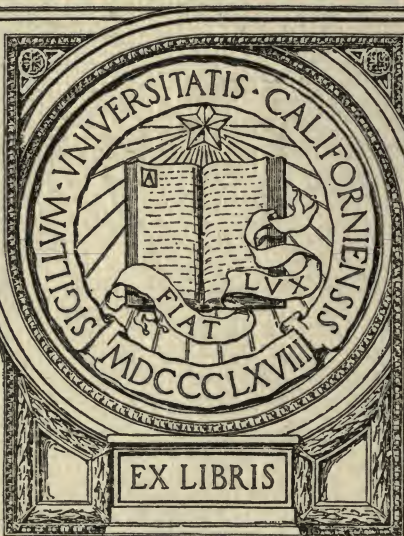
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The
PHILOSOPHY
of WAR



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THE PHILOSOPHY OF WAR

by
HARRIETTE AUGUSTA CURTISS, F. O. 15

and

F. HOMER CURTISS, B. S., M. D., F. O. 15

Secretary of

The Order of Christian Mystics

Authors of

"The Voice of Isis," "Letters from the Teacher,"

"The Soundless Sound," Etc.

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THE PHILOSOPHY OF WAR

PART I. THE WAR

"The world is a field of battle where liberty struggles with inertia by the opposition of active force."—*Transcendental Magic*, Levi, 31.

"It is only by the attractive force of the contrasts that the two opposites—Spirit and Matter—can be cemented together on Earth, and, smelted in the fire of self-conscious experience and suffering, find themselves wedded in Eternity. This will reveal the meaning of many hitherto incomprehensible allegories, foolishly called 'fables.'"—*The Secret Doctrine*, Blavatsky, Vol. II, 108.

The chaotic conditions now existing in Europe have elicited many questions from our students, especially those in European countries, as to the mystical meaning and the philosophical reason for the apparent necessity for war, and why it is permitted by a God of Love and Wisdom. In other words, What is the reason for and the place of war in the Cosmic Scheme or the Grand Plan of the Universe? This lesson is an attempt, in a few paragraphs, to outline and make comprehensible a stupendous subject whose roots go deep into the beginnings of manifestation. For *the War* is an expression of cosmic law.

Why
War?

It is an axiom in occult philosophy that there can be no manifestation without duality, no shadow without its Reality. In philosophy everything that manifests descends from above, its expression on earth being but the shadow or reflection of a Reality in the higher realms. "St. Paul . . . called our World, 'the enigmatical mirror of pure truth,' and St. Gregory of Nazianzen corroborated Hermes by stating that: 'Things visible are but the shadow and delineation of things that we cannot see.' . . . 'All that is on earth, saith the Lord (Ormazd), *is the shadow of something that is in the superior spheres.*' . . . It is an eternal combination, and images are repeated from the higher rung of the Ladder of Being down to the lower . . . the lower 'mirror' disfiguring the image of the superior 'mirror.'"¹ And the *Zohar* also holds strongly to the idea that everything manifested in the Universe is the shadow of the Eternal Light or Deity, separated by the prism of Matter into its seven rays, each with its dual principle of light and shadow. Of what, then, is war on earth the shadow?

¹*The Secret Doctrine*, Blavatsky, Vol. II, 280.

The first emanation from the Absolute coming into manifestation necessarily had its positive and negative aspects or poles, Spirit and Substance. From the very dawn of the going forth of the Manifested from out the bosom of the Unmanifested, the state of perfect equilibrium was disturbed and the mighty *urge toward union* and a restoration of the primordial equilibrium came into manifestation. It is this *urge toward the restoration of the Projected to its Source*, the call of the Spirit to Matter, the Father to the Son, the Heavenly Man to the human, the Higher Self to the lower personality, that is the cause back of all war, all desire, hence back of all evolution. For *only in a union with its Cause* can the Cycle of Necessity be ended, the desire be satisfied and become one with the Will of the Father, *the War* ended and the evolution be completed.

The
Divine
Urge

But the impelling Force which caused the Outgoing or downward arc of the projection into Manifestation *resists the Indrawing power* or upward arc of Realization which is necessary to complete the At-one-ment. This *resistance* to the uplifting, dematerializing and indrawing force constitutes and is

the basic principle back of all reflections or phases of *the War*. In the physical world this resistance is expressed as the war between Spirit and Matter; the resistance due to the density and inertia of Matter to the unfoldment and expression of the Spirit which, with the descent of the Light, clothed itself in Matter that it might evolve up through it and by so doing spiritualize it and return it to its primordial state. It is the inability of the lower vibrations of Matter to respond to the higher vibrations of Spirit until, through the subliming and etherializing process which results from the friction thus engendered, Matter becomes finer and more plastic and thus more responsive to the expressions of Spirit. Hence in all cosmogonies, " 'There were many Wars,' all referring to the struggles of adjustment, spiritual, cosmical and astronomical, but chiefly to the mysteries of the evolution of man, as he is now."² The point we wish to emphasize is that these "wars" are all *necessary factors* in the adjustment which *must occur* ere the close of any and every cycle.

"There are accounts of three distinct Wars

²S. D., Vol. I, 215.

to be traced in almost every cosmogony. The first War happened in the night of time, between the Gods and the (A)-suras, and lasted for a period of one Divine Year.”³ Thus *the War* began with the “War in Heaven” or the resistance of certain expressions of the Godhead to carrying out the Divine Will; again the *resistance* of the lower to the higher Will. This is far more than merely an expression of the Sun-Myth or the personification of the forces of nature, the war between Light and Darkness. For the various versions of the Sun-Myth are but allegories expressing the cosmic principle of the *resistance of Matter* to the expression of Spirit, whether it be represented by the Christian Michael, the Angel of the Sun, slaying the Apocalyptic Dragon; Horus, the Egyptian Sun-god, slaying Typhon, the Dragon Apophis; Hercules strangling the Python in his cradle or “Phoibos-Apollo, the Greek Helios, the Sun, ‘the Light and Life of the World’ . . . who at the moment of his birth asks for his bow to kill Python, the Demon Dragon.” They all symbolize the eternal struggle for light, progress and evo-

³*Ibid*, Vol. I, 451. A Divine Year is 360 times a Day of Brahm (4,320,000,000 years).

lution which constitutes the war between the Light of Wisdom and the Darkness of Ignorance; between unselfishness and selfishness; the good of the whole and the ambitions of the few; between civilization and barbarism; between the Angel of Peace and the Dragon of Material Force embodied in Militarism; between Right and might, etc.

*Animal
Man*

The second great phase of *the War*, as reflected in humanity, occurred at the creation of man, when the *resistance* set up by the desires of the lower to the Will of the Higher was exemplified in the struggle which took place between the Lunar and Solar Fathers. Occult philosophy teaches that the physical body or animal man was projected as a "shadow" or was "created" by the Hierarchy of the Lunar Fathers.⁴ But the "man" so created was but a human animal without intellect or the spark of self-consciousness; he had not yet become "a living soul." As soon as the human animal had been perfected the Hierarchy of the Solar Fathers—called "Sons of Mind"—projected into that animal form a "Ray" of themselves which became the Divine Spark, the individ-

⁴For *The Origin of Man*, see chapter xvii in *The Voice of Isis*, Curtiss.

ual, immortal Spiritual Ego or, as the *Bible* puts it, they: "Breathed into his nostrils the Breath of Life (breath always being a symbol of Spirit); and (only then) man became a living (immortal) Soul."⁵ Man was thus the product of two distinct lines of creative forces, a semi-terrestrial and a Divine; just as a mother brings forth (creates) the terrestrial body of her child, yet has nothing to do with making it "a living Soul." With the incarnating of the Spirit and the lighting of the spark of self-consciousness in man this second phase of *the War* began, *i. e.*, the effort of the spiritual Solar Fathers, through the incarnated Ray or Real Man, to control and guide the animal man, to the end that he might respond to the higher law or Divine Will. The control of the Lunar Fathers had been through instinct and did not admit of the power of choice, while the control of the Solar Fathers was and is through the free-will choice of man, even though through his refusal to choose the higher guidance he creates the suffering by which he learns the wisdom of that choice. The struggle was brought about, therefore, by the *resistance* offered by

⁵*Genesis* 11, 7.

the animal instincts and the desires of the senses to voluntarily submitting to the uplifting and spiritualizing control of the Divine Will of the Real Man or Father-in-heaven.

Origin
of
Intellect

In the mental world *the War* manifests as the *resistance* of the Intellect to the promptings of Intuition; the temporary refusal of the Head to obey the promptings of the Heart. Until the self-conscious stage of man was reached the resistance was more or less passive or the resistance of inertia, but with the dawn of free-will and the power of choice the resistance became active and the element of antagonism was added to the inertia. Although the light of self-consciousness and the development of the Intellect was the direct result of the incarnating Spirit gradually evolving an adequate instrument by means of which it could relate itself in consciousness to the conditions of material manifestation and through which it could express itself in such conditions, as soon as the spark of Divine Mind burst into the flame of self-consciousness, the human animal thus awakened to itself—but as yet unable to recognize its Divine Parent—placed Intellect upon the throne as the source of its highest guidance.

St. Paul refers to this phase of *the War* when he says: "When I would do good (*i.e.*, follow the Intuitions from the Higher Self), behold evil (or the desires of the lower man) is present with me." It is *the War* between Higher and Lower Manas or the *resistance* of the human or intellectual consciousness to the Illumination and guidance of the Divine. And this phase of *the War* will continue in man until, by the subliming and spiritualizing process due to the friction (suffering) engendered, the Intellect will admit that it is but the creature and instrument, and must become the willing servant, of the Real Man or Higher Self, to translate the Inspiration of the Spirit into terms of human consciousness which shall enable the human personality consciously to follow the Divine Guidance. Of all creatures man alone has within him both the Higher Mind—the embodied Ray from the Divine Mind—and also the Lower Mind which is synthesized by the animal soul and has its highest expression through Intellect. Hence man is the Arbitrator, for he can reach up and comprehend God and also reach down into the animal consciousness and comprehend the resistance

Office
of the
Intellect

of matter and the views and arguments of the Lower Mind.

*The
Curse*

By the creative power of his thought he leaves the impress of his stage of evolution upon all the lower kingdoms. For just as *the War* in heaven was reflected in man, so has man reflected *the War* that is going on within himself, upon the lower kingdoms. So it is through man, who has stamped the impress of his imperfections—the incomplete stage of his spiritual unfoldment—upon animal, vegetable and mineral as antagonism, hatred, disease and death, that the curse has been fulfilled: “Cursed is the ground for thy sake, . . . thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; . . . in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground (his Source); for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return.”⁶ Looking at *the War* as symbolized by this so-called curse, with the eye of Spirit we see that this curse contains a prophecy of the end of *the War*, i. e., the ultimate victory of the Spiritual over the mere animal man. Only that which is made of cosmic dust or Matter

⁶*Genesis* II, 7.

can be cursed by man's disobedience to the Divine Will. In other words only that which man received from his Lunar ancestors—his physical, astral and desire bodies—can be said to be made of "dust" or the unredeemed matter of former world-periods⁷ which formed the chaos into which the spiritual Light descended at the beginning of this cosmic Day of Evolution. Hence the so-called curse may be turned into a blessing, since it assures us that ultimately all that is dust (matter) will be returned to its Source at the end of *the War*, but with the results of man's higher spiritual understanding of the great mystery of transmutation or redemption impressed upon it. The curse also tells us in a few cryptic words that the cause of *the War* is the effort of Spirit to redeem (literally "buy back" or return to its Source) Matter.

Perhaps the position of man in this great struggle can be better comprehended if we consider an earthly simile. In an earthly war only one who has had experience on both sides or who is so gifted that he can enter fully and understandingly into the point of

⁷See *The Voice of Isis*, Curtiss, Chapter XXIV.

*Can
the
Arbitra-
tor*

view of both combatants, is fitted to become an Arbitrator. In the mighty war between Spirit and Matter man is such an Arbitrator; for he can, if he will, reach up into the Spiritual Consciousness and comprehend the Divine Plan of Redemption, the power of the Spiritual Consciousness to uplift the animal consciousness; can grasp the reality of the transmuting power of Divine Love, and understand that only through the reign of the Heart can there be peace; for the Intellect, when its dominance is insisted upon, can only prolong *the War*. He can also make his Intellect a powerful servant which can descend into the most microscopic details of Matter and understand the point of view and the cause for which the lower man fights. Through the Light of Intuition he can ascend into the higher realms and grasp the macrocosmic details of the Grand Plan and realize that through Intellect alone he can never correlate with the Spirit of that which the Intellect has discovered. Thus from his position as Arbitrator he can not only look down into the suffering, misery and crime created by the resistance of the selfish animal desires, but can also see how only through the spirit

of Love and Harmony and through Obedience to the guidance of the Spirit can man and nature be redeemed and the curse be removed. The victories of the lower mind are precipitated in its home-world, the physical consciousness, as mental and emotional storms, while the victories of the Higher Mind are accumulated in its home-world as so much added power of the Spirit to manifest on earth both for the individual, the Race and the planet.

Curse
Removed

The War between the Higher and Lower Selves therefore began when the child of the Lunar Fathers became also the child of the Solar Fathers. Hence we find throughout all myth and allegory the frequent reference to wars between the Sun-gods and the Moon-gods or between the Priests of the Sun and the Priests of the Moon. And in the early races, when the Sun-gods "walked and talked with men," that is, when through their Divine Incarnations as great Spiritual Teachers, the Sun-gods taught the intellectually infant humanity the principles of all arts, sciences and philosophies—many of which are today temporarily lost because of the present wave of materialism—the great mass of the Race was

unable to respond to that higher guidance except for a short time, and there arose a division into two groups, the smaller of which still followed the Divine Teachers, and the larger which followed the call of sense gratification and selfishness represented by the Priests of the Moon-god. As Eliphas Levi says: "Men grew weary of the light, took refuge in the shadow of bodily substance; the dream of the void, which is filled by God, soon appeared to be greater than God himself in their eyes and thus Hell was created."

Rama
vs.
Ravana

The third great phase of *the War* therefore manifested on earth in the terrible struggle which took place at the close of the Fourth or Atlantean Race between Rama, the first of the Divine Dynasty or Solar Kings of the early Aryan Race, and Ravana, the leader of the scorcery-working Atlanteans. As *The Secret Doctrine* tells us⁸: "With the Fifth, our own Race, the Lunar-solar worship divided the nations into distinct, antagonistic camps. It led to the events described eons later in the Mahabharatan War."⁹ Whether we take this in its historical aspect

⁸S. D., Vol. I, 426.

or as a legendary reference to the escape of the Aryans from Atlantis; as Moses leading the Children of Israel out of Egypt; as the escape of the higher faculties from the bondage of the senses, or purely as an allegorical expression of the Sun-Myth, in each instance we have a leader who represents the Divine Dynasty or Light, Progress and Evolution—the upward and indrawing power which is the cause of all evolution, civilization, progress—and who always leads his followers in triumph over the hosts of opposition, which are inevitably swallowed up in the sea. In the *Bible* account this leader is called Moses, the Law-giver, while in the individual those faculties which *choose to follow* the Divine Law become the “chosen people.” By following the Divine Guidance they are led out of the bondage of the senses and escape from the power of King Desire,¹⁰ represented by Pharaoh. But King Desire is loath to let them escape him and pursues after them,

Moses
vs.
Pharaoh

⁹“This served as a prototype . . . for the Western nations to build their War of the Titans upon. . . . The War of the Titans is but a legendary and deified copy of the real war that took place. . . . It is the record of the terrible strife between the ‘Sons of God’ and the ‘Sons of Shadow’ of the Fourth and Fifth Races. It is on these two events . . . that every subsequent national tradition on the subject has been built.”—*S. D.*, Vol. II, 525.

¹⁰See lesson on *King Desire*, Curtiss. Sent free on request.

Who
Must
Win

only to be swallowed up in the waters of the Great Sea, even as the hosts of Ravana were swallowed up by the sinking of Atlantis. Therefore in *all wars*, on every plane of manifestation, the forces which represent the Sun-god; which fight for progress, enlightenment, civilization, the Brotherhood of Man and of Nations; which truly fight on the side of St. George against the Dragon *must ultimately win*, for they become channels through which the constructive, uplifting and spiritualizing currents of the Cosmic Forces can find expression and manifest on earth.

As we have already said, before any cycle can close and the circle return to its primordial state of equilibrium, everything that persistently stands in the way and prevents the manifestation of Divine Will, or the Idea of that particular cycle; *everything that resists* the indrawal and union; that refuses to respond to the higher vibration or key-note of that cycle, in other words which refuses to be redeemed, *must be* wiped out of the path of that closing cycle and make way for the manifestation of the new. Therefore *there must be* a great adjustment at the close

of *every* cycle, whether it be of Race, sub-race, nation or individual. If the cycle is sufficiently advanced to permit the adjustment to be made by responding to the Law of Harmony expressed through Love, Tolerance, Brotherhood and Unselfishness, whether of individuals, nations or Races, then there need be no war, for the *resistance* has been overcome. But if *the resistance to the Divine* has built up such a mass of inharmony (evil) that the spiritual force of that cycle is not sufficient to redeem it, then the adjustment must come as a physical precipitation of the stored up inharmony, through the avenue of physical conflict or war; just as a cloud which is so saturated with moisture that the sun cannot absorb (redeem) it must be precipitated as rain, hail or snow ere the light of the sun can manifest on earth.

Origin
of
Evil

In the physical body *the War* is expressed through certain storms of bodily inharmony, illness or disaster which sweep over those who are endeavoring to follow the Higher Guidance and striving to "live the life." When the ideal of a higher life is set up by the consciousness, it sounds a new and higher key-note throughout the body. Those atoms

which can respond answer the call and follow the new Law-giver and are led out of bondage into the freedom of a new cycle or expression of Life. While in those atoms which belong wholly to the old dispensation, which have fulfilled their mission and are not sufficiently evolved to take on the higher vibration and enter the new cycle, the *resistance* to the higher call is so great that it brings on *the War* in which they are vanquished and sloughed out of the body through a cleansing cataclysm of illness which, while it leaves the body temporarily devastated and weak, has nevertheless cleared the field of opposition and prepared for the manifestation of a higher expression of Life.

Strife and war among nations are simply evidences of inharmony and sickness in the body of humanity; an effort of the body politic to slough out those atoms which refuse to respond to the higher key-note of civilization that is struck by the more advanced conceptions of Harmony, Brotherhood and Cooperation among nations.¹¹ War may be

¹¹The atoms thus sloughed out are not the individual lives sacrificed in war, but are the false ideals of selfish isolation and individual aggrandizement regardless of others, that obstruct the upward evolution of humanity as a whole.

likened to the cruel lancet of the surgeon which opens a festering boil. It causes temporary suffering and bloodshed, but it permits the escape of the mass of inharmony and corruption which, if retained, would poison the entire body. And no real healing can take place until the focus of infection is utterly wiped out. *Ultimate Victory*

In the daily battles for poise, control and harmony which the individual begins consciously to fight as soon as he endeavors to follow a higher ideal, he may possibly find himself worsted in some of the skirmishes of the early stages, and evil and inharmony may accumulate until it can no longer be held back and must find physical expression—for it is a well known principle of psychology that thoughts express themselves through their creators in terms of action, unless counteracted by opposite thoughts of greater power—but no matter how many skirmishes are lost, if he persistently follows the Light of his highest Ideal, be it ever so primitive to others, it will lead him step by step to ultimate victory. If he finds himself facing such an outbreak, it means that he has created more inharmony or evil than his present stage

of spiritual unfoldment is able to transmute, hence the precipitation.

*Control
of
Emotion* In the mental world the outlet will be found through the emotions. The expression of these emotions becomes a storm which sweeps away the control of those who open the door of their minds through irritation, impatience, anger, jealousy, envy, animal desires, etc., and leaves them devastated, yet relieved and ready, in the next time of trial, for an encounter which shall be more successful, in proportion to the effort made to conquer in the past. This, however, should not be made an excuse for giving way to emotional excitement of any kind, for a strong effort should always be made for control and peace, *i. e.*, to transmute inharmony and turn its perverted forces into constructive and useful channels. But if a storm should gather and burst, be ready to set a higher standard and a greater degree of achievement in the period of reconstruction.

The War is also reflected in the terrible struggles through which the candidate for Mastery must pass during his Initiation; the struggle of The Christ within to slay the dragon of self; the Guardian Angel to slay

the Dweller on the Threshold. It is also exemplified in the *resistance* of humanity to new or higher spiritual teachings; the misunderstanding, misrepresentation, condemnation, slander, persecution, final crucifixion *but ultimate triumph*, through which every Light-bearer who comes to humanity has to pass. Has Religion Failed ?

From the principles outlined above it will be seen that the wars among nations which make for enlightenment, civilization, freedom, the independence of each nation and the general advance of mankind, are not evidences of the failure of civilization or the failure of the particular religion which prevails at the time. They are but skirmishes in *the War*; expressions of the Cosmic Law of adjustment called Karma, by which that which is created by mankind must be faced and redeemed; that which is sown must be reaped. There must be periodic manifestations of *the War* as long as Matter *resists Spirit*; as long as barbarism resists civilization; civilization resists the Brotherhood of Nations; industry resists co-operation; materialism resists altruism and idealism, in short, as long as any phase of manifestation resists the call of the Divine. But the conflicts should

grow fewer and fewer and the periods of peace be more and more prolonged in each succeeding upward cycle, until the Golden Age of the Seventh Great Race of man¹² is reached; until we return again to the rule of the Divine Kings—the “Sons of God” as the *Bible* calls them—among men, not as parents ruling over children, as in the beginning, but as Elder Brothers or Senior Partners whose experience and wisdom we gladly accept and follow.

The great lesson to be learned from *the War* is that it is a very real and personal issue with each awakened Soul who has awakened to the call of the Divine and donned the armour of The Christ and become a Soldier of the Cross. Each Soul is judged at the close of each life-cycle by the sum total of how much it has overcome, how much of the lower self it has illumined by the higher spiritual consciousness. And strange as it may seem to some, evolution in man is gauged by how successfully he has fulfilled his mission as Arbitrator between Spirit and matter, between the higher kingdoms and the lower, giving to each its rightful place

¹²See *The Voice of Isis*, Curtiss, Chapter XV.

while he himself stands calm and unmoved in the midst of *the War*, confidently knowing that back of all the turmoil, inharmony and strife are "the everlasting arms" of Divine Love and that the true Peace is ever hovering, like the Breath of God, over the seeming chaos.

It is man, therefore, responding of his own free-will to the guidance of the Divine, who must bring about "Peace on earth, good will toward men," and not the dictates of an arbitrary Being who imposes his Will upon a helpless humanity. Hence there is not a single man or woman who cannot be an active factor in bringing the Golden Age of Love, Peace, Harmony and Brotherhood into manifestation the sooner, through the controlling of thoughts, words and emotions, and by *overcoming his or her resistance*, and responding more and more understandingly and gladly, to the upward urge of the Divine.

*Man
the
Redeem-
er*

Written September 30, 1914.





THE PHILOSOPHY OF WAR

PART II.

THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

"To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot harken: behold the word of the Lord is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it."—*Jeremiah*, VI, 10.

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the whole earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. . . . And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."—*Revelation*, XVI, 13-16.

Invisible
Hosts

The literal meaning of Armageddon is "on the heights" or "on high," and in this sense it is used to designate the invisible realms of the astral-plane. The hosts which are gathered to this great battle are the hosts of the accumulated thought-forms of lust, greed, envy, hate, selfishness and unbrotherliness engendered by the wrong thinking of humanity from the beginning, as well as the results of their evil words and deeds, all of

which are ever seeking expression through their creators. Jeremiah specifically refers to these forces as causes when he says: "Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, *even the fruit of their thoughts*, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor my law, but rejected it."¹ During this battle all the stored up evil must have a focus through which it can pour itself out upon the lowest or physical-plane where its precipitation will end the cycle of its manifestation, adjust the Karma and permit the good aspect of the forces involved to be extracted, just as ore is crushed or melted that the gold may be extracted. Hence, while many are referring to the present European conflict as Armageddon, the meaning of the word shows that the present war is but one reflection or outpouring on earth of the real battle that has been raging in the higher realms.

These forces have accumulated because, during the childhood of the Race the Masters of Wisdom and the Rulers of the sub-races have held them back until the Race grew strong enough to bear them upon its

¹Jeremiah, VI, 19.

own shoulders; grew up as it were. But the Race has now grown up. The cycle is closing and the time for the adjustment is at hand. "Therefore I am full of the fury of the Lord (Law); I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together."² The working out and adjustment of these karmic forces must take place at the close of each Race, and in a lesser degree at the close of each sub-race. This adjustment precipitates the great race wars which are followed by the cataclysms which mark the close of sub-races and Races; for every particle of matter composing the Race-continent, as well as every particle in the body of individual man, must have its own individual balancing, purification, readjustment and ultimate redemption.

The last great Armageddon occurred just before the sinking of the continent of Atlantis, at the close of the cycle of the Fourth Great Race (Atlantean). "This hints at the struggle between the 'Sons of God' and the Sons of the Dark Wisdom—our forefathers; or the Atlantean and the Aryan Adepts. The

²*Ibid*, VI, 11.

whole history of that period is allegorized in the *Ramayana* which is the mystic narrative in epic form of the struggle between Rama—the first king of the Divine Dynasty of the early Aryans—and Ravana, the symbolic personification of the Atlantean (Lanka) Race. The former were the incarnations of the Solar Gods; the latter, of the Lunar Devas. This was the great battle between Good and Evil, between White and Black Magic, for the supremacy of the divine forces over the lower terrestrial, or cosmic powers.”³ The sinking of the continent of Atlantis which followed was the balancing of the accounts of the entire Fourth Race. It was a necessary preparation (through the purifying action of the salt water) of the continent for a future Race. The survivors, those who were sufficiently spiritualized, awakened and obedient to follow their Divine Rulers, were picked out, separated and trained by the Masters long before the sinking of the continent, and became the seed of the present Fifth (Aryan) Great Race, just as some are now being chosen and trained for a similar function.

³*The Secret Doctrine*, Blavatsky, Vol. II, 520.

Why
Europe?

Ere this present Fifth Race ends—and we are now just entering upon its sixth sub-race⁴—a similar adjustment of its Race Karma must take place. The great European war now raging offers a focal point through which the Karma of the fifth sub-race of the Aryans can be precipitated on the physical-plane and adjusted. Europe is the focal point because it was in Europe that the greater part of that Karma was engendered, *i.e.*, through the many bitter political wars which drenched its soil in blood; through the sectarian wars carried on in the name of the Church, but which perverted religion and made priest-craft a curse; and through the intolerance, selfishness, mental and spiritual blindness of the religious leaders which manifested in the mental war which was finally culminated in the most inhuman persecutions the civilized world has ever known—the Inquisition. The present war is the beginning of the period which will mark the close of the Fifth Great Race. While this present conflict seems wholly evil, it is not entirely so for the Race; for not only will the old karmic debts be adjusted and thus allow the contending nations to enter into a federation in which the inde-

⁴See *The Voice of Isis*, Curtiss, Chapter XVII.

pendence of each nation or people will be guaranteed—as brothers, some older, some younger, in the great social family—and thus will prevent war for a long period and enter the new era with a clean slate as it were, but the war is developing in the Race as a whole, an enormous amount of the feminine qualities—love, compassion, sympathy, devotion, unselfishness and service—so necessary as the Race enters the Aquarian or Woman's Age, the sign of the Son of Man in the heavens.

Among the contending nations the English, French and Germans have reached the zenith of their cycles as nations and hence must be tested ere they can enter the new cycle. They are classed among the nations which represent the highest stage of civilization, culture, intellectual and material advance on the planet today, but they must now prove the truth of their proud boasts; must prove whether their civilization and culture is the result of true spiritual growth or whether it is the mere veneer of intellectual and material attainment without corresponding spiritual unfoldment. Has their so-called advance in civilization brought their people into a greater realization of the *spir-*

itual basis of all manifestation? Has it led them to strive for a more conscious communion with the realms of spiritual consciousness as a daily personal experience? Has it taught them the folly of seeking to satisfy the ceaseless craving of the Soul for *union with its Source*, through the gratification of the senses or the possession of material things? Has their scientific study of the wonderful co-operation and brotherhood existing among the cells, tissues and organs of every unit of organic life led them—if for no other reason, as a matter of efficiency—to follow *the same law* and express greater tolerance, co-operation and brotherhood among themselves as members of the body of humanity? Have their studies led them to recognize the true position of woman as the Priestess of the household, to complement and co-worker with man; the spiritual head of the family, as man is the material; the inspirer and leader in all spiritual, ethical and moral problems? In time of emergency, stress and strain, when there is scarcely time for thought, will the culture of these nations enable them instinctively to display more love, compassion, self-sacrifice and human-

ity, simply because man is man, than the less cultured nations would under similar conditions? Or will they relapse to the level of the uncultured animal man who fights solely for self? This is the test which their civilization must stand. And those nations which show most conclusively that these higher qualities have been built into their national consciousness must be the ones to dominate and manifest these qualities more perfectly in the world's arena during the coming cycle of the new age. The Slavonic nations, on the other hand, have not reached the zenith of their evolution, but are on the upward arc. Hence the more primitive qualities of their civilization may be used by the Great Law as instruments with which to accomplish the testing of the more advanced, and to make possible the inauguration of the new era.

When the physical conflict is over a terrible mental revolt against all forms of restraint, both in government and religion, will burst forth. It will be a period of extremes, extremes of individualism; a period when the opposition against all systematized or organized spiritual teachings, which is even now manifesting under various doctrines of relig-

ious and so-called "soul freedom," will find extreme expression. It will be a period both of extreme agnosticism and extreme individualistic teaching, when any fantastic theory, even without a rational or philosophic basis, will find a hearing and followers. At the same time there will be a strong feeling upon the part of those who cling to the old conceptions that it is their duty to humanity to enforce the old religious ideals. Hence all churches, orders, movements and societies professing a spiritual basis will on the one hand have radicals whose extremes will bring them into disrepute, while on the other hand they will have those who will laugh at, ridicule, discredit, oppose and persecute them. And the same fire that has manifested as physical war will again sweep the world as a mental, spiritual and psychic conflict. It will be a time when all spiritual movements will be under a cloud, when spiritually "The brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son: and children shall rise against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death." Therefore it will be a period of great testing; a period when every heart who has realized the reality of

the spiritual world and its forces must be securely grounded in the philosophy, stand firmly and unshakably for his or her beliefs, even though to do so involves ridicule, persecution and mental suffering. For every system of teaching not founded upon the rock of divine reality and expressed in terms suitable to the new conditions must pass away to make room for the new.

These conditions will be so terrible that they will last only a very few years, perhaps only two or three, for we are told that "for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. . . . And except those days should be shortened, there should be no flesh saved." The only way that the "elect" can prove themselves is by their sincerity, their steadfastness, their trust and their determination to hold calmly to their spiritual ideals and *to rely absolutely upon their divine, inner guidance*. Words and arguments will be of no avail. The truth of their beliefs can be proved only by living them. All such will be like bright and shining lights in this period of mental and spiritual darkness, or more correctly, blindness. It will be at the close of this period that the long expected Great

Teacher, the Avatar, will appear to reassure distracted humanity of the spiritual basis of all manifestation and to outline a new and higher conception of the spiritual life and its forms of expression.

*Psychic
Weapons*

The battles of the physical world are fought on the physical-plane with physical weapons, but the battle of Armageddon must be fought first upon the astral-plane with thoughts and psychic forces for weapons, the conflict now raging being but a pouring out of the evil and a gathering together of the forces of Good for the final battle on the higher planes. This battle has already begun, and it will continue throughout the sixth sub-race of this Aryan Great Race. Its progress will be marked by tremendous disasters precipitated upon the physical-plane—wars, earthquakes, cyclones, volcanic eruptions and meteoric showers, floods, etc.—of more or less severity until the final battle and cataclysm in which the battlefield and the defeated army will be swallowed up and a new and purified land (the old Lemurian continent in the Pacific) shall rise out of the waters for the new Sixth Great Race to inhabit. The victors will remain as the seed of

the new race to people the new land. Just as these changes must take place for the planet, so must they take place in humanity through bloody wars, strikes and other conflicts which will continue until all conflicts of man with man, and man's resistance to the Divine are swallowed up, and out of the waters of affliction there shall arise a new and greater humanity with true Brotherhood, Love, Peace and Harmony as its watchword.

The time has now come when the accumulated mass of old Race Karma must be definitely met and conquered ere humanity can enter upon the new sub-race, its next step in evolution. This, in a measure, is to the world what the Dweller on the Threshold is to the neophyte. And as with the neophyte before each important step is taken, it must be met and conquered. For just as the neophyte, through his evil thoughts, words and acts, has created an entitized form of evil—his individual Dweller⁵—so the planet has been pouring out its evils throughout its long cycle until they have become entitized as a “dark planet” with a living Ruler, the Anti-Christ. This planet may be called the Dwel-

⁵See *The Voice of Isis*, Curtiss, p. 64.

ler on the Threshold for humanity as a whole.

*Science
Confirms
Prophecy*

The astronomers of Harvard University have already discovered the influence of this dark planet—the Destroyer—which, if encountered, means the destruction of the earth. Astronomer Serviss is quoted as saying that the earth and this whole solar system has gone astray and is trailing off away from its path around the great sun Alcyone in the Pleiades, toward the constellation Andromeda in the Milky Way. These are but astronomical confirmations of the fact that we have entered the sixth sub-race, and that the hosts are rapidly gathering for the great Battle of Armageddon. The earth is being driven through space in this new direction by the character of the thought-force of its collective humanity. But there is another planet, not yet recognized by science, which is a bright planet—the Redeemer—to be drawn into whose aura means salvation. These two planets may be called the camping grounds of the opposing forces, with the earth between as the battle ground. But back of and within the outer cause, as the propelling power, will be the preponderating force of

good or evil thoughts engendered by humanity. Therefore the real battle is to be fought on the mental and astral-planes with thoughts and psychic forces, good and bad, as weapons, and later will be reflected and precipitated on and in the earth. Hence all advanced students, who consciously determine to make Love, Brotherhood, Purity and Peace their standards of life, enroll themselves among the Hosts of the Lord and become Soldiers of the Cross.

Origin
of
Disease

The Dragon symbolizes the synthesis of the world's perverted thoughts of sex and is commonly called the Devil. The three unclean spirits like frogs which come from his mouth symbolize the three great expressions of the dragon-force, *i.e.*, (a) sex impurity, suppression and perversion; (b) the creation of disease by such perversion, and (c) insanity or psychic obsession resulting from astral entities—or individual Dwellers on the Threshold—utilizing sensitive but negative victims through which they can satisfy their desires. The Beast is a symbol of Mammon or greed, expressing through the Money Power. The three evil spirits issuing from his mouth comprise all the miseries and sorrows that arise

as a result of greed and injustice in their threefold expressions of (a) war, prosecuted for territorial or commercial expansion, stimulated and financed by the Money Power; (b) poverty, resulting from the unjust distribution of wealth, which distribution is controlled by the Money Power; and (c) all the train of evils resulting from bodily and industrial slavery. The False Prophet symbolizes all the false teachings which have been given out in the name of religion or spiritual teaching to justify and uphold both the Dragon and the Beast, but which have misled humanity and held it back from manifesting Peace, Love and Brotherhood. From his mouth come forth the three frogs of (a) materialized religion, priestcraft and temporal power; (b) spiritual pride; and (c) intolerance and its handmaiden, religious persecution. This pride, intolerance and persecution did not die out with the Inquisition, but is still active today. It is now directed not so much against the physical bodies of its victims, but is carried on mentally and psychically through the slanders, scandal and malicious misrepresentation carried on through various publications and commonly

called "brutal journalism." All these factors, as the passage quoted plainly tells us, work for the King of this World, King Desire and his allies and their cohorts.

One of the first rules impressed upon the spiritual aspirant is that to attain at-one-ment by the path of Love and Purity he must lay down all carnal weapons. Jesus emphasized this rule when He said to Peter: "Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."⁶ Yet we find the disciple spoken of as a Soldier of the Cross and commanded to array himself as a fighting factor in the world's salvation. Jesus also said: "I came not to send peace, but a sword."⁷ Behind this paradox lies a great truth, the understanding of which is necessary ere any decided conscious advance in the spiritual unfoldment of either the individual or the Race can take place, *i.e.*, the conquering must take place on the plane where the causes are engendered, and the weapons are Love and Purity. This means that thoughts of Love and Purity must be sent out in such numbers *and with such positive spiritual force* that they will sur-

*The
Paradox*

⁶Matth. XXVI, 52.

⁷Matth. X, 34.

round and transmute the impure and antagonistic forces, following the same tactics as the white warrior cells (phagocytes) of the blood use in meeting an invasion of disease germs, *i.e.*, not deny the evil, but surround and transmute the evil into Good. *The Voice of the Silence* tells us: "Strive with thy thoughts unclean before they overpower thee. Use them as they will thee, for if thou sparest them and they take root and grow, know well these thoughts will overpower and kill thee."⁸ If you find them persistently clinging to you, send out an army of pure and loving thoughts to absorb and transmute them. Science recognizes the fact that, during epidemics of disease, the mere thinking and talking about the disease will make negative persons more susceptible to it. This does not mean that all disease is merely mental, but that by negative thoughts you open a door in your aura through which the disease can enter. This effect is still more evident in moral epidemics and in the epidemics of war-thoughts which sweep over nations. Therefore the spiritual aspirant should lay down all carnal weapons or he will surely

⁸Blavatsky, p. 12.

perish by the sword, overcome by the hosts of evil thought-forms he has drawn into his aura.

Applied to warring nations this principle indicates that we should not waste time and force in specifically directing our prayers and thought forces to the European nations that they shall cease fighting, for they are acting under the tremendous urge of long pent-up karmic readjustment which must take place, and cannot respond to our prayers until after that karmic readjustment has been worked out. There is only one efficacious way to pray for peace and that is to pray that the Will of the Father shall be done on earth, even as it is in heaven. That Divine Will is Love, first, last and all the time. And having prayed thus believe and know that this Divine Love is back of the entire world of manifestation, and that it is ever working to bring about the reign of universal Love, Peace and Harmony, even though it be necessary to sweep from its path all that opposes that reign. The terrible conditions which prevail today are not the Will of the Father, but are the creations of man; the result of his *resistance and opposition* to the Divine Will;

*Pray
for
What ?*

the creations of unbrotherliness, selfishness and greed, not altogether on the part of those instrumental in precipitating or now participating in the present conflict, but the accumulation of selfishness and greed of the Race, all of which must come up for adjustment now at the close of the cycle of the fifth sub-race or the end of the old dispensation, just as the rash must come out in measles, scarlet fever, etc., ere the real healing can begin. Therefore while you pray for the greater Peace, know that that Peace must first come in the hearts of the people of all the nations involved and of the whole world.

Try not to think of individuals except in compassion, knowing that the Great Law will adjust their conditions in its own good time. Those who are dying for their ideals, even though those ideals be but of local patriotism and loyalty to an earthly ruler, are in a measure redeemers for the Race; for they are dying that the Race may be purged from the war-thought, the war-ideal and the curse of militarism. Hence in the next incarnation they will receive the just reward for their sacrifice. By their suffering and dying they have brought the world to a greater realiza-

tion of the utter folly and needlessness of war if the Divine Will were followed. By their sacrifice they have wiped out much of the individual and racial Karma and will receive their compensation by being enabled to incarnate the next time under far more advanced conditions of civilization than they could have experienced had they remained a few years longer in the present life. Send your forces of Love, Peace and Brotherhood into the higher realms where they will aggregate into a mighty force which shall swallow up all future thoughts of national selfishness and aggrandizement and be a powerful factor in forming a federation of European nations on the grounds of common humanity and brotherhood which shall make it impossible for the ambitions or passions of a few to plunge nations into bloody and needless conflicts, and which shall be an important factor in preparing for the coming of the Avatar.

All persons who are sensitive have realized for some time that there is a terrible commotion in the mental and astral worlds which is now intensified by the physical conflict going on in Europe and also by the

thousands of Souls suddenly thrown out of incarnation carrying with them all the excitement, antagonism and hatred which animated them as they fought. This composite force is like a tension or steady pressure upon all humanity tending to make all persons more irritable and excited. Therefore it is the duty of every advanced student to take special pains to see that he does not make an opening in his aura through which such forces can manifest by giving way to impatience, irritation and emotion or to partisanship and race antagonism. Instead he should consciously strive to *make himself a center* from and through which the constructive forces of Peace, Harmony, Love and Brotherhood can radiate in his family and immediate environment and on out into all the world.

Arrayed against the hosts of evil stand the thought-creations of Love, Harmony and Purity and upliftment of the Race sent out in a steady stream by the Lodge of Masters and by all Great Teachers since the world began, as well as by all who have been able to think *vitalized* thoughts of Love and Purity, Harmony and Brotherhood. All humanity have

added and are still adding their quota to one side or the other. It is the destiny of the fifth sub-race to see the beginning of this great and decisive battle between Good and evil or, to be more explicit, between Purity and impurity. Hence it is time that all who desire the salvation of the Race and the planet should awaken to the grave conditions we have outlined herein, and determinately array themselves on the side of Good by sending their individual, pure and vital love-force to swell the Hosts of the Lord. For you cannot say a loving word or do a loving deed, even to an animal, without having a loving thought behind it. And every loving and peaceful thought adds strength to the Army of the Good. As the Christ says: "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

The pure Hosts of the Lord are mustered in serried ranks according to natural law and order, while the forces of evil, being a perversion of nature and abnormal, are not organized. A well known principle of warfare is that a small but well organized army can overcome a much larger force that is unor-

ganized. And as evil and impure forces are sent out by haphazard impulse they may be compared to an unorganized mob, while thoughts of Good, because they require will and effort, are consciously created, and can be gathered together by the Masters and formed into a well drilled, well disciplined and well officered army, always in good fighting condition. Good is stronger than evil because it is constructive and works in harmony with the Great Law.

The Masters of the Great White Lodge, altho small in numbers as compared with the multitudes of humanity, are, nevertheless, able to engender and consciously use a far greater degree of creative force on the side of Purity, Peace, Love and Brotherhood. But even They must work with the Law as Karma and may not forcibly prevent a Race or sub-race from experiencing its karmic retribution and readjustment. But Their efforts, being consciously directed and wisely applied, weigh heavily in the scale. They do not act on the physical-plane however, except through Their disciples and those who respond to Their inspiring currents of force. Hence Their great need today of those who

will consciously make themselves centers of Peace, Purity, Harmony and Love and be more or less conscious instruments through which They can work. They are the directing force, comparable to the officers of an army, but the disciples must consciously become willing volunteers who shall compose the great body of fighting units which the Masters shall train and direct. Therefore, instead of devoting all your efforts toward unfolding your faculties and developing your personality, set to work earnestly and consciously create warriors for the Army of the Lord to the end that not only the Race but the planet itself, shall be saved from destruction.

*Become
a
Helper*

(Written May, 1909. Revised Sept. 30, 1914.)



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